

Respectively submitted to the FCC,
I am filing comments relative to the FCC's concerns on localism in broadcasting on behalf of the Monadnock radio Group. MB Docket number 04-233. The Monadnock radio group is comprised of five proud stations, WKNE, WOQL, WKBK, WZBK, and WINQ, of which I am the General Manager.

The stations that make up our group are passionately devoted to our community and define for the rest of the industry what it means to be a "Home Town" station. Some localized characteristics are unique to each station while other characteristics are shared by all. Each station features local news and weather during morning and afternoon drive time and are prepared to offer the listeners extensive coverage of major local, state and national news. The tragedy of 9/11, the shuttle Columbia disaster, the start of the second Gulf War are some examples of coverage of world events delivered locally. The irreplaceable contributions that are made locally regarding the news can be summed up by the accounts of a story that happened here this year.

Two local children were reported missing early one weekday morning. Our news staff and morning shows began covering the story at 5:00am. Reporters were dispatched to the scene and calls for volunteers and support staff were constantly mentioned on our airwaves. When the children were finally found safe in a wooded area some five hours later, one of our reporters who had accompanied the search party, broadcast a live report via cell phone over our radio stations. The emotional report was heard by the two worried parents of the children, who had stayed behind at home. They received the great news first from their local radio station.

In addition to being the local news conduit for the community our stations also are very committed to the issues that involve the area. All five stations provide a fifteen minute public affairs program each week to keep listeners informed. Our News/Talk station provides numerous hours of public affairs related programs every week. WKBK offers 45 hours of local call in talk shows per week. Topics range from school and town government to healthcare, parenting, traffic, commerce, and the economy, public safety, local issues, social issues, "How To's" and "How do you dos". It is also a source for local high school sports, live local election coverage, current and special event coverage, local church service, multiple public service campaigns as well as joining the other four stations in thorough weather and storm related information including extensive snow storm reports which include road conditions, cancellation, forecast, and emergency announcements.

Our stations are very committed to proactively benefiting various efforts to support or assist the community. Our annual "Feed a Friend" campaign has collected an overwhelming amount of food for the local food pantries over the years and the sale of our "Good friend" teddy bears has contributed over \$75,000 to the Salvation Army. Our continuing support of the Big Brothers, Big Sisters program of the Monadnock region earned us their first ever Millennium award which recognizes outstanding support for their organization.

The efforts of our station employees go beyond their job related responsibilities. Many members of our staff volunteer a portion of their time to serve on local board of directors for non profit organizations, town committees, school organizations, or as advisers, coaches or mentors of school aged children. I personally am on the board of directors for the Massachusetts's Association of Broadcasters and the Keene Chamber of Commerce. Most of our employees are native to this area. Personally, my wife and myself live in Keene city limits as do two out of three of my grown and married children and grandchildren. They have called Keene N.H. home all their lives and are very protective of its future and responsive to its needs. What better individuals to serve as stewards of our local radio stations.

The radio stations of the Monadnock Radio Group are representative of what radio is designed to be and should be preserved to be, local.

Please except these comments and our commitment on this matter seriously.

Bruce Lyons
General Manager
The Monadnock Radio Group.